

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 AID-05 /070 W

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R 051300Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4462

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3403

FOLLOWING TEL CALCUTTA 0570 DTD 05 MAR RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 0570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IN

SUBJ: CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE RESURGENCE OF NAXALITE
TERRORISM

1. A SENIOR POLICE SOURCE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US
THAT THERE MAY BE A RESURGENCY OF NAXALITE TERRORISM IN
WEST BENGAL AS RESULT OF THE FEBRUARY 24 JAILBREAK.
SOURCE SAID THE ESCAPEES WERE HIGH RANKING NAXALITES
AND MANY WERE QUITE VICIOUS; HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED
NISHIT BATTACHARAYA, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY, WHO WAS
BEING HELD FOR MURDER OF A CALCUTTA POLICE OFFICER.
SOURCE SAID SO FAR ONLY FIVE OF THE FORTY ESCAPEES HAVE
BEEN APPREHENDED. ASKED ABOUT NAXALITES POTENTIAL FOR
TROUBLE-MAKING AND STORES OF WEAPONS, SOURCE SAID HE
THOUGHT THEY HAD VERY LITTLE NOW BUT COULD OBTAIN ARMS
BY KILLING POLICEMEN OR ATTACKING POLICE DEPOTS. EVEN
A SMALL NUMBER OF NAXALITES COULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE
TROUBLE, SOURCE SAID; FOUR NAXALITES HAD KEPT TWO WEST
BENGAL DISTRICTS "IN FLAMES" IN 1970 AND 1971.

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2. THIS POLICE OFFICIAL'S CONCERN OVER A POSSIBLE RE-

SURGE OF NAXALITE ACTIVITY PARALLELS TALK THAT OUR
LOCALS HAVE HEARD IN RECENT DAYS. WITH THE CONTINUING
AND DEEPENING INDUSTRIAL RECESSION IN WEST BENGAL, AND
WITH THE EMERGENCY HAVING MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE
CPI OR THE CPM TO SERVE AS OUTLETS FOR POPULAR FRUSTA-
TION, THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE SITUATION MAY BE
RIPE FOR RENEWED NAXALITE TERRORISM. IT REMAINS TO BE
SEEN WHETHER ANYTHING WILL EVENTUALLY COME OF THIS, BUT
THERE ARE ALREADY SOME HERE WHO THEORIZE THAT THE
ESCAPED NAXALITES MIGHT TRY TO USE BANGLADESH AS A
SANCTUARY, AND LATER AS A BASE FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST
TARGETS IN WEST BENGAL.
KORN

UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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